

## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MICHAEL HICKINBOTHAM AWARDED**

### **HOUSING's HIGHEST HONOUR**

Michael Hickinbotham, Managing Director of the Hickinbotham Group, has received the Housing Industry Association's (HIA) 2022 Sir Phillip Lynch Award of Excellence.

The award recognises outstanding individuals who have provided innovative and valuable contributions to the housing industry and who demonstrate unfailing integrity and an exemplary attitude of excellence.

Michael joins an elite group of industry leaders. Previous award recipients include Managing Director of Meriton, Harry Triguboff; former Managing Director of McDonald Jones Homes, Bill McDonald; former Managing Director of the Buckeridge Group of Companies, the late Len Buckeridge; and Managing Director of building products company Brickworks, Lindsay Partridge.

Michael received his award at the HIA-CSR Australian Housing Awards at the Gold Coast over the weekend. After last year's event was cancelled due to covid, two Awards of Excellence were conferred this year, with Managing Director of Langford Jones Homes, Bruce Langford-Jones, also recognised.

In presenting Michael with his award, HIA Managing Director, Graham Wolfe, recognised Michael's "significant innovation and leadership within the industry."

"[Michael] works successfully with HIA on a range of initiatives including planning reform, development of the 30-year Plan for Greater Adelaide, population policy, stamp duty and tax reform. This is in addition to other numerous policies and regulatory reforms which support the industry," Graham said.

After receiving his award, Michael attributed the success of the Hickinbotham Group to his wonderful team, including the many trades who have worked with Hickinbotham through generations of their families.

"My childhood days spent on building sites with my father taught me the value of hard work and the fulfilment of crafting beautiful and meaningful things. My father and grandfather started this company more than 65 years ago and they'd be amazed at where it is today," he said.

Michael thanked his dedicated, focussed and passionate staff and said: "Together, we are contributing to a shared vision of improving lives.

"Over three generations, the Hickinbotham Group has sought to create neighbourhoods where South Australian communities can thrive. It is a privilege to support families on their path to home ownership, particularly as we acknowledge that the past two years have been challenging for many Australians."

As Managing Director of the Hickinbotham Group, Michael leads one of South Australia's most successful and diversified groups spanning construction, development, premium spirits, finance and biotechnology.

The Group is responsible for one in every three new homes built in greater Adelaide and more than \$2 billion of developments currently underway in South Australia, supporting the employment of more than 4,000 South Australians.

The Group is South Australia's largest and longest-established building and development company and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest builder nationally. It has developed more than 60 community estates, built more than 45,000 homes and created housing for more than 100,000 Australians.

Under Michael's leadership the Group has led environmental and commercial projects including:

- Becoming the first South Australian builder to offer a range of sustainable housing for the volume building market, in collaboration with award-winning architect Max Pritchard.
- Establishing wastewater recycling for the township of Renmark.
- Pioneering Australia's first aquifer storage and recovery project at Andrews Farm, from which national standards were developed.
- Endowing Xavier College at Two Wells.
- Implementing one of South Australia's first public-private partnerships (PPP) to establish regional CFS headquarters in Gawler.
- Building Australia's first privately owned public school at Woodend and endowing Australia's first joint ecumenical Anglican catholic school – St Columbia College at Andrews Farm, now the second largest school in South Australia.
- Establishing a pipeline of largescale development projects with a combined retail value in excess of \$2 billion.

In 2001 Michael was awarded the Centenary Medal for services to the Australian building industry and the community. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of SA in 2019 for his contribution to South Australia and his commitment to education.

Outside the building company, Michael has entrepreneurial, philanthropic and investment interests. He is passionate about South Australia and improving the lives of South Australians.

Drawing on his grandfather's genius in the science of wine and spirits, Michael has also founded Australian Distilling Company, a premium craft spirits distillery that is winning awards internationally and pays homage to the flavours and essence of Australian cities and regions, leading – of course – with the iconic 'Adelaide Gin'.

Michael is also committed to the advancement of medical research as a major investor in Australian life sciences company, Sementis, dedicated to the development of safe and effective vaccines for a large number of diseases and conditions including pandemic and bio-terror threats. Now based in Adelaide and headed by Chief Scientist Professor John Hayball, Sementis is conducting important scientific work for the future benefit of mankind.

Michael is a strong and quiet supporter of local charities, community groups, sporting teams and the arts. He has made significant contributions to the University of Adelaide's heritage building fund and the Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory, and also to St Columba College at Andrews Farm.

**MEDIA CONTACT: Louise Marsh at Corporate Conversation:**  
[louise.marsh@corporateconversation.com.au](mailto:louise.marsh@corporateconversation.com.au) or 0418 814 147